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ICSC Open House

Youth Court Model

Monthly Features



The Tribal Youth Court is a division of the Intertribal Court of Southern California

# Tribal Youth Court Periodical

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## Our Mission

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*Tribal Youth Court, TYC, aims to cultivate wellness-based responses to low status offenses. The TYC centers on educating tribal youth about tribal restorative justice practices and empowers them to engage in these practices in service of their communities.*

## Dear Readers,

Summer is in full swing! July brings warm weather, family BBQs and our only summer holiday! ICSC took advantage of our cooler weather last month and hosted our first Open House Event. It was great meeting with our Tribal and community partners to share all about the exciting things happening at ICSC!

On June 22, 2022, the Intertribal Court of Southern California (ICSC) held its first Open House Event. Open to our member tribal councils, as well as our Tribal and Community partners, the event was hosted to highlight all court services, the Tribal Youth Court, and to mark the launch of the court's victim services program under the Office of Victim's of Crime grant, *The Agave Project*. Tribal Youth Court took the opportunity to meet with our guests and let them know that we are here and what we are all about. ICSC gave a history of the court as well as an update on all of the services

the court currently offers, and a look into what the future may hold for the court. The Open House marked the launch of its Victim Service Program, *The Agave Project*. *The Agave Project* aims to support tribal youth and families in an effort to create lasting, positive change and wellness in the community. *The Agave Project* will assist the Tribal Youth Court in its monitoring of our participants, as well as serve as a link to victim service agencies that the participants and families may be in need of.

Please visit our website at [www.intertribalcourt.org](http://www.intertribalcourt.org) for more about our court programs.

*"Look forward. Turn what has been done into a better path."*

- Wilma Mankiller

## Monthly Round Up: July 2022

# Here's what to look for in July:

### July 1<sup>st</sup>:

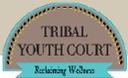
#### *International Joke*

*Day:* This day gives the opportunity to start the second half of the year with a smile. See our "Court Humor," feature in each issue for a fun joke to share on this day, or any day!

### July 3<sup>rd</sup> :

#### *International Plastic*

*Bag Free Day* This day marks the global initiative to eliminate the use of plastic bags, which are a huge strain on the environment.



### *Coordinator's Corner*



Meet Mr. Happy Face, crowned the World's Ugliest Dog, on June 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Sonoma-Marin Fair in Petaluma, CA. Owner, Jeneda Benally, Diné musician and activist, went to her local animal shelter and asked for, "the oldest and most unadoptable dog." He is a survivor of abuse and neglect, and at 17 years old, has a myriad of medical conditions. Benally states, "Mr. Happy Face is doing what he can with his platform, and bringing awareness to Rez dogs having no resources or accessibility to vaccines or spay and neuter clinics." You can find more on Mr.

Happy Face, dubbed the "King of Kindness," on his Instagram page at @mrhappyface\_wud and his mission to help elder dogs and Rez dogs find better lives. He accompanies Benally this summer on tour with her band to raise money for the Tuba City Animal Shelter, near his Arizona home.

### July 4<sup>th</sup> :

*Independence Day:* We celebrate this day every year as the birthday of American independence. On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence. The Declaration of Independence was adopted two days later by delegates of the 13 colonies. The tradition of setting off fireworks began in Philadelphia on July 4, 1777 during the first organized celebration of Independence Day.

### July 14<sup>th</sup> : *Bastille Day*

Bastille day, the common name given in English-speaking countries, is the national day of France. It is the anniversary of the Storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789, the beginning of the French Revolution. It is about celebrating the rights and the freedom of the people.



### Month of July: *National Park and Recreation*

*Month* National parks across the country exist to protect, preserve and share the multifaceted history of our country, including that of native peoples. Take some time this summer to visit one of our local national parks that celebrate and honor the beauty of our land and all of its history, culture and heritage.



### *Current Events>>>*

## *Law in the News*



★ On June 21<sup>st</sup>, President Biden announced that the Chief of the Mohegan Tribe, Marilyn "Lynn" Malerba will be named the U.S. Treasurer, the first Native American in this role. Chief Malerba is the 18<sup>th</sup> Chief of the Mohegan tribe, and is the first female chief to serve in the Mohegan tribe's modern history. Chief Malerba will continue to serve as the overseer of the Office of Tribal and Native Affairs in the Treasury Department. As the U.S Treasurer, she will oversee the U.S. Mint, and her signature will appear on all new U.S. currency. She is debating between signing as Chief Lynn Malerba or Chief Many Hearts Lynn Malerba, referencing her tribal name.

★ On June 24, 2022, the United States Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, ruling that abortion will no longer be a federal constitutional right. This ruling overturned the legal decision issued on January 22, 1973 that legalized the procedure across the United States with some state held restrictions, depending on the term of the pregnancy. The new ruling eliminates the constitutional right to an abortion and gives individual states the power to set their own abortion laws.

# Tribal Youth Court: Healing to Wellness

*Participation in Tribal Youth Court offers the opportunity to heal, grow, learn and restore.*

The Intertribal Court of Southern California supports the beliefs and values of its member tribes in their views that children are the most precious gift of the tribes and that they need to be protected. Traditional Healing to Wellness courts aim to reduce crime and substance abuse through therapeutic interventions and intensive supervision. The idea is to heal and repair, and address the underlying issue, or issues, causing the behaviors.



Juvenile wellness courts exist to address the same issues with at-risk youth, with the goal of allowing the participants to take accountability for their actions, as well as accountability for their own growth and healing, under the supervision of the court team. Our Tribal Youth Court has adopted this model. Our goal is to ensure that our local Native youth are provided with opportunities to create brighter futures. Through culturally centered care, we offer the chance for each participant to heal and restore by promoting harmony at home and within the community. Our wellness plans create individualized opportunities for each participant to receive any services needed to begin the journey to healing. Through community service, cultural participation and life skills edification, we strive to provide the tools and services necessary to promote healthy, contented lifestyles.

**Ask the court >>>**

**Q:** How long is Tribal Youth Court?

**A:** Each case is different, depending on the participant and the nature of offense.

Once the youth has been determined eligible for the program, TYC staff will begin the intake process. The participant will then be given the initial hearing date where the final sentencing will occur. Depending on the severity of the offense and the outcome of the hearing, the sentencing can be issued from a ten, twenty or thirty week track, in which all community service, cultural participation hours and life skills assignments must be completed in order to graduate from the program.



## Intertribal Court of Southern California

*The Tribal Youth Court is a division of the Intertribal Court of Southern California (ICSC). Please refer to this section to find current news and updates about the court.*

### About the Court...

The ICSC serves as a consortium of tribes from across Southern California. ICSC currently serves the thirteen of its member tribes hearing cases on public safety issues, tort claims, family law, conservatorships and more. Below, we highlight the one of our member tribes.

#### **Cahuilla Band of Indians**

Established in 1875, the Cahuilla Band of Indians occupies a 20,000-acre reservation near Anza, CA. Most of that land is divided amongst individual members, with only 2,000 acres belonging to the tribe in common. The tribe's language is derived from the Uto-Aztecan language. Its Tribal Council consists of a Chair, Vice Chair and three council members that also serve as Overall Economic Development Committee. The tribe owns the Cahuilla Casino, which was recently remodeled in 2020.

Please visit [www.intertribalcourt.org](http://www.intertribalcourt.org) to learn more about court services offered

# *Final thoughts...*

*Fun Law Fact:* **In Arcadia, California, peacocks have the right of way, including in all driveways and roadways.**

*Court Comedy:* **What did the lawyer name his daughter?**  
- Sue



Intertribal Court of Southern California  
Tribal Youth Court  
49002 Golsh Road  
Valley Center, CA 92082  
[www.intertribalcourt.org](http://www.intertribalcourt.org)

To submit a question for the "Q & A" section to be answered in an upcoming issue, please submit to the TYC Court Coordinator.  
Contact information below.

*coming soon >>>*

## *In our August Issue*

*TYC and ICSC Updates*

*ICSC Fall Plans*

*August News*

*Monthly Newsletter Features*